

# Times .10

Your Magazine of Choice

April 2004, Vol. 11 Number 7

I'm  
Coming  
Out

Pg 11

Fun

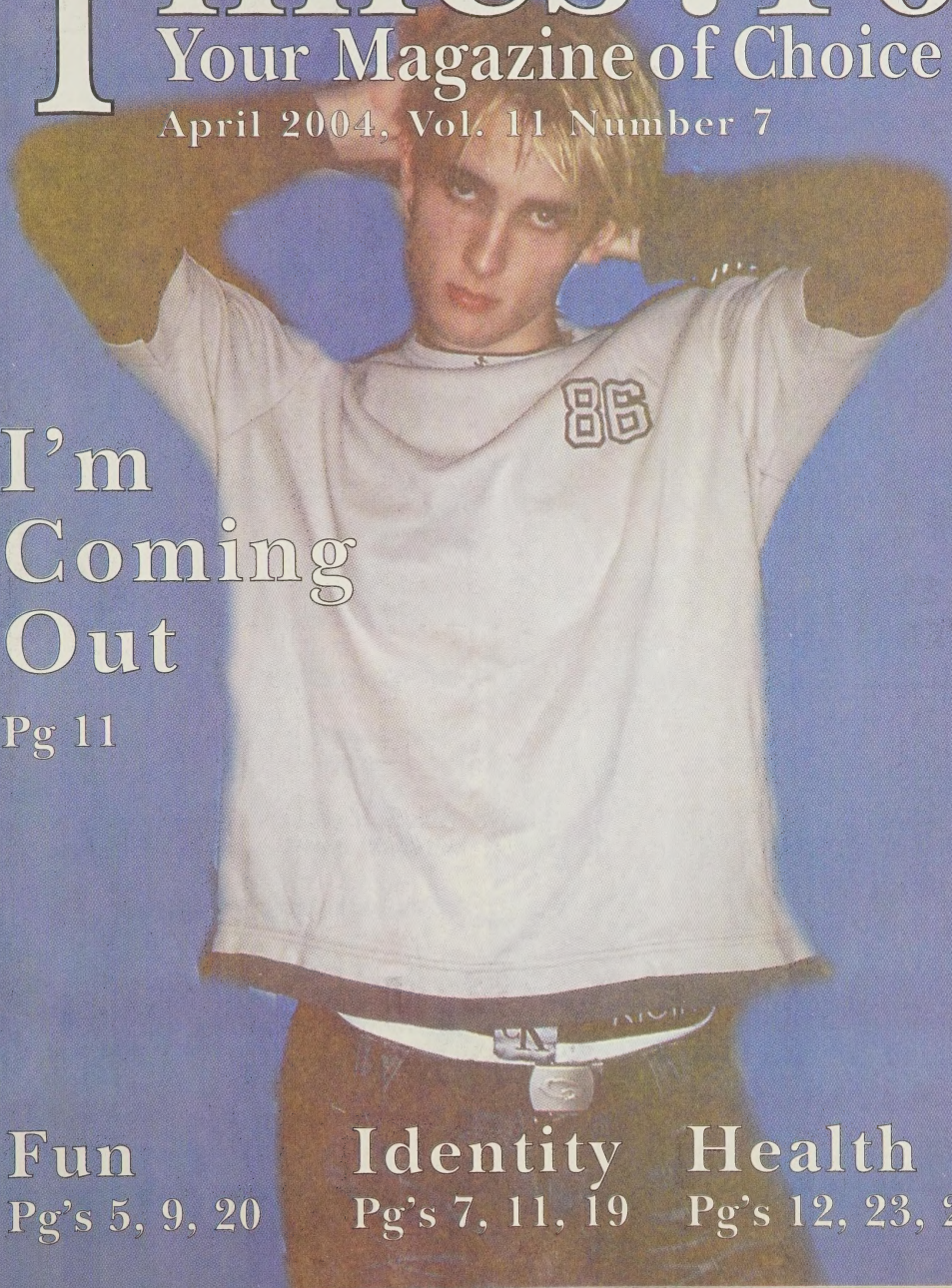
Pg's 5, 9, 20

Identity

Pg's 7, 11, 19

Health

Pg's 12, 23, 26





**TIMES .10**  
YOUR MAGAZINE of Choice

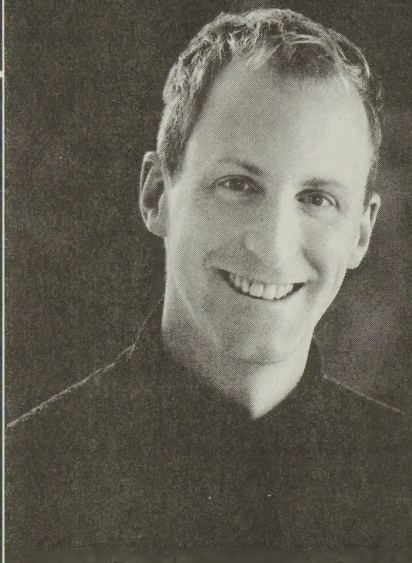


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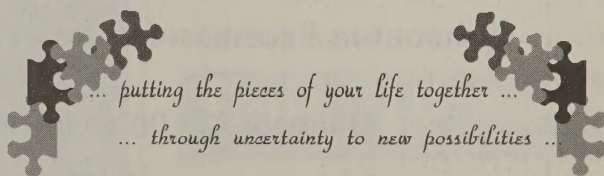
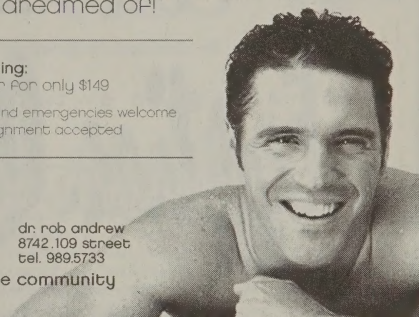
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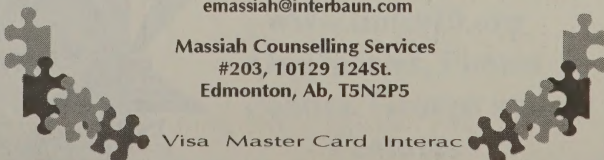
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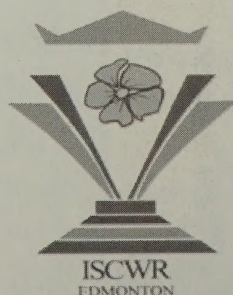
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## Egyptian Queen on Safari

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## THE FEDERATION OF GAY GAMES

Cologne, Germany will be the site of the 2004 Federation of Gay Games annual meeting from 6-13 November, with Sports Club Janus eV (SC Janus) acting as local organizers. Federation officials announced today.

"Cologne has a long, proud history of participation in the Gay Games," said Kathleen Webster, Federation Co-President. "During the last four years we've met twice in Australia and once each in South Africa, the U.S. and Canada, so it is high time we return to Europe. We met in Amsterdam in 1995 and Berlin in 1999 and this year we could not be more pleased to visit Cologne."

Once a year, usually in October or November, the Federation board gathers from around the world to coordinate the work of its officers and committees. The key goal is perpetuating and supporting the quadrennial Gay Games, the seventh edition of which will take place in Chicago from 15-22 July 2006.

SC Janus is the local umbrella sports organization for the LGBT

community in Cologne. As such, it provides a source of contacts and common information among area athletes in activities such as volleyball, gymnastics, football, swimming, table tennis, handball and cycling. SC Janus has been a Director Organization on the Federation's board since 2001. Ulrich Breite, SC Janus President, said, "Cologne and SC Janus feel very honored to host the 2004 Annual Meeting of the Federation of Gay Games. We invite all directors and delegates, honorary life members and observers to be our guests during this event in the historical and gay- and lesbian-friendly atmosphere on the River Rhine. Cologne will supply a professional infrastructure in order to make the annual meeting a big success, together with a warm welcome from all SC Janus members and the people of Cologne."

For more information on the Federation of Gay Games, go to [www.gaygames.com](http://www.gaygames.com)

## Wanted general manager

Edmonton Vocal Minority is inviting applications from interested individuals for the position of General Manager. This will be a paid position that reports to the EVM Board of Directors. Primary duties include overseeing production and publicity for the choir. Reply in confidence to [sing@evmchoir.com](mailto:sing@evmchoir.com) to request a detailed job description. Closing date for applications is 30 June 2004.

**EVM**

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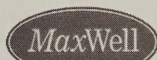
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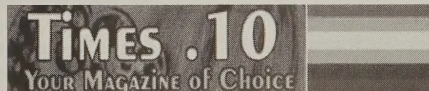
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# Welcome to my Head

By Joey Gierulski

Ladies and Gentlemen, welcome to the GLBTSTGTVTS Community of Edmonton. For many it's just called the Gay Community, but to others it's the GLBTSTGTVTS. Well what is the GLBTS... whatever the hell it is? It's the Gay, Lesbian, Two Spirited, Transgendered, and Transvestite, Transsexual Community. Yes some would see it is diversification, but others see it as over defining who we are. I personally see it as going overboard, but that's just me. What would drive us to over defining who we are? What's wrong with just calling us gay? I think its just people trying to further define who they are by dropping another letter into the slogan.

A while back when I was in high school, I asked a teacher of mine, how she defined herself. She simply said to me, "I am Shirley, that's who I am, not Gay, Straight or lesbian or whatever, I am whoever I want to be". Now, her name wasn't Shirley, but for protecting her identity and career, we'll call her Shirley. I am not saying there is anything wrong with identifying yourself, or not identifying yourself, but some people prefer to just be whoever they want to be. I don't see anything wrong with sexual identification, I just don't think its necessary to go as far as saying "I am Transgendered" Or I am Transsexual". If you are a man who only desires another

man as a partner, then you are gay and vice versa. Regardless if you were a woman before, you are now a man who prefers other men; you are GAY. Nothing wrong with that, just simplifying the meanings.

The use of the word Gay and lesbian is used to identify sexual orientation, not to identify a recent surgery, or the way you dress, it's the type of person you prefer either sexually or emotionally. It's show we are born, Deal with it.

When Ellen DeGeneres came out of the closet on national TV she simply said, "I am Gay". The point got across that she was a woman that prefers other women, sexually and emotionally. It applies to all homosexuals worldwide, you are gay or you are straight.

Now, as for bisexuals... Liz Messiah's ad is on page 29, give her a call.

I am not denying the fact that there are transgendered, transsexual and etc. people out there, and I understand they have different ways of life and have different needs that need to be met. The point that I am trying to get across is that we don't need to call ourselves the GLBTSTGTVTS Community of Edmonton, or even the GLBT Community. What's wrong with calling ourselves the Gay Community, and forgetting all the other jargon. We're getting lost in translation. If we spend all this time trying to get the straight community to accept us who we are, and learn about who we are, we aren't

going to get anywhere confusing them with "GLBTSTGTVTS", they won't understand... Hell I don't understand it! We can't



educate people about who we are by confusing them on our own definitions. What ever happened to being gay?

We have spent all these years trying to build ourselves and our community, and now it's all falling into a gray area because people are getting confused.

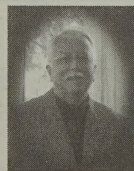
Look at it this way. A Man coming to terms with his sexuality thinks to himself, "Maybe I might be gay". Then he goes out and takes a look at our community and sees that we are identifying ourselves as GLBTSTGTVTS, what would you think? That if you are gay instantly you are apart of the Transgendered community? Or apart of the Transsexual group? Well, some would easily just say that's not me, and be who they are, but others could get easily scared away, and never come to terms with themselves. Because they think that calling them selves gay instantly links them to these other affiliations that we have been associated with. Or who knows, maybe they might want to be apart of that group of transvestites and still spend his life as a straight man. It happens, I know of one. My point is, Transgendered, transvestites, transsexuals can be either gay or straight. So why do they need to be linked with the gay community?

Just simplify it people! Our message will get out a lot faster and easier. Don't loose yourself in the identification jargon, you are gay or you are straight.

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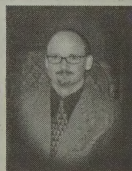


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# A Walk in the Woods

By Dennis Cambly  
Managing Editor

It should be noted that the vast majority of our community in the Capital City is doing very well thank you. The majority of us meet almost every week and sometimes more often to discuss things going on and what things we can do to make things better. When you put on the horse blinders you will not see all the good that is being done, so please, take them off for a day. Once you have them off you might actually see all of the good work being done by most of the businesses, community groups and individuals.

Our main identity of being gay or lesbian is now under attack and that concerns many people including myself. As gay people we know what discrimination is and most have dealt with it in their own way. Take a good look at our brothers and sisters in the United States now disobeying the law in many places throughout their country.

Imagine having a Major who would stand up against all the Provincial laws in Alberta and allow gays to marry openly in front of city hall! We as a community know that we have a living coward in that office that signed a simple proclamation behind closed doors ignoring that we even exist. Quebec has just recently joined the Provinces of Ontario and British Columbia where the marriage of gays and lesbians is allowed. It took Court challenges in those provinces to set an



enlightened standard for our people. Let me give you a simple concern that makes a difference when the law is on our side. Pretend for a minute that the person you love the most is hospitalized. Are you aware that unless you are considered immediate family you would not be allowed to visit under certain circumstances? That would be quite an insult when the two of

you may have been living together for five or more years. That is only one small example of what the law can do when it is on your side.

So while there may be those who think nothing is being done it could not be further from the truth. We must understand that we are a part of the gay and lesbian community and that means moving your mind outside the Capital City. The pitiful gutless politicians we have governing our city and our province are outside the realm of sanity.

They are the leftovers from the bible belt clowns that used to operate this province and keep it in the dark ages of human rights and freedom of choice. There truly are greater battles to be fought than putting down and hurting a person within our city boundaries. That is just being cruel and if you want to see cruelty look at the pathetic city councilors we have along with their provincial counterparts in office.

When you move yourself to the Federal stage you can see the same old dirty right wing tactics now calling themselves Conservative. These are people who will do anything to grab for power and send us back into the dark ages Canada wide. They are people of few moral values and absolutely

no understanding of what a family means. It is one of my deepest wishes that they would read their entire bible instead of taking meaningless passages from it to suit their needs.

They have once again changed their name but a leopard cannot change the pattern. No the party of no policy except the one left over from the Reformed Alliance and Stockwell Day! We remember Stockwell, the Pentecostal minister who drove the province so far in debt and spent millions on private religious schools. Meanwhile he let our health care system fall apart and stretched everyone's imagination when he told his Red Deer audience that man walked with the dinosaurs. This is what is behind the Revised Conservative Party that wants power on a Federal level. Yes people, we have bigger fish to fry so try not to burn too many people within your own community.

First things first though, we must keep our gay and lesbian identity and not let it get watered down. Everyone is welcome into our community and it would be wonderful if we were welcome into theirs.



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# Quebec, Third Province to Allow Same-Sex Marriages

Over 70% of Canada now has equal marriage.

Montreal—In a landmark decision released this morning, the Quebec Court of Appeal quashed an attempt by the Catholic Civil Rights League to appeal the Hendricks decision of the Quebec Superior Court. The Court also lifted the suspension of the Superior Court's ruling. As a result, Quebec becomes the third province to permit same-sex couples to marry.

"This is a great day for Quebec and a great day for Canada," said Bob Gallagher, National Coordinator for Canadians for Equal Marriage. "Now same-sex couples can marry in provinces that represent over 70% of Canada's population. The only question that remains is when all of Canada will benefit from equal marriage for same-sex couples."

"Thousands of gay and lesbian couples have already been married in B.C. and Ontario," said Gilles Marchildon, Executive Director of Egale. "As far as I'm aware, not one single heterosexual couple has called off their wedding as a result. Instead, Canada has earned a reputation as one of the most

progressive countries in the world. Studies show this will attract top knowledge workers as well as a flood of tourists. Now Quebec too can benefit."

"There's nothing stopping other provinces from letting same-sex couples marry," said Laurie Arron, Director of Advocacy of Egale.

"Since the Charter applies across the country, the law must be that same-sex couples can marry across the country. The only reason courts haven't ruled in the other provinces is that their

courts haven't yet been asked. It's time for the remaining provinces to act. Federal legislation is required to send a clear signal and to change ancillary

laws, but there's no reason for the provinces to wait. We call on the Attorney General of Canada to send a clear signal that all provinces and territories should now let same-sex couples marry."

"Excluding gay and lesbian people from marriage is discrimination, plain and simple," continued Mr. Arron. "Righting that wrong is good for us and it's good for Canada. Everyone

benefits from living in a country where all are recognized at law as human beings, equally deserving of concern, respect and consideration."

"We now expect the Quebec government to abide by the ruling and allow same-sex wedding celebrations to be held," said Claude Côté, Québec board member of Egale.

"Gays and lesbians in Quebec, the first province to outlaw discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in 1977, have now been granted full equality under the law, less than two years after the Québec National Assembly unanimously passed a civil union and full parental rights bill for same-sex couples. We applaud this historic decision."

"We congratulate Michael Hendricks and René LeBoeuf, who can finally marry after being together for more than three decades," said Mr. Marchildon.

*"This is a great day for Quebec and a great day for Canada,"*





# Power Of The Mind

By Steven Townsend  
Assistant Editor

The Human Mind is such an amazing thing. It can do almost anything. Look at all the things that have been created the things that have been destroyed all in part a result of the human mind.

The mind has the ability to choose between right and wrong not that we always listen to it. It can solve complicated mathematical problems. It can do mysterious things that we have yet to learn to do like move things and some people's minds can even tell the future. The Mind's power of memory is astonishing, the way it can keep

track of everything from your phone number to a childhood memory. I can just close my eyes and be brought back to any moment in time that I wish whether it be fact or fiction. The Mind can also be very good at



blocking things out too. Not that it really matters seeing that you can't remember it anyway.

Last year I had a great opportunity, seeing that I was not working and had a ton of free time on my hands, to explore and figure out just how powerful the

Mind actually is. I was lying in my bed listening to coast to coast am. The guest that night was Sylvia Brown. She was talking about astral projection (the ability to leave ones body and travel freely) I had heard about this before but never really had tried to do it. Mostly because of the fact that I had no clue what to even do. I was very interested in learning how to leave my own body just to see what it would be like and if it was even possible. So I went out in search of something to teach me how to do it. I came across some audiotapes on astral projection. The tapes claimed, that if you practiced everyday you would be able to leave your body within ten days. So seeing I had so much time on my hands I figured why not.

So I tried and I tried every night before I went to bed. It seemed to be doing something I would get into really deep states of meditation and usually just end

up falling asleep. One night while doing it I swear I did it for about ten seconds. I opened up my eyes and I could see myself lying on my bed I got so panicked, my heart starting beating faster then it has ever beat in my life and boom I was back in my body.

I am half a sceptic and half curious and will try anything at least once I am not sure if I was just in a dream state and was tricked by my mind into believing that I was actually seeing my body or if in fact I really was. Either way it was amazing to say the least.

So even if you are a sceptic explore the power of your mind. Try to bend a spoon, Learn to leave your body, meditate it is great for relieving stress. Just learn all that there is to learn. Develop your mind in anyway you can. The possibilities are endless.

## TROY

By Michael Derry  
#93 'LIVE IN WEST HOLLYWOOD'

I'M HERE LIVE IN WEST HOLLYWOOD WHERE HUNDREDS HAVE GATHERED TO PROTEST PRESIDENT BUSH'S SUPPORT OF A CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT BANNING GAY MARRIAGE. WITH ME ARE ORGANIZER RAY FINEGOLD AND HIS PARTNER DERR.



AND WE THINK IT'S VITALLY IMPORTANT FOR AMERICA TO KNOW THAT ALL GAYS ARE NOT DRESS WEARING SEX FREAKS! SOME OF US ARE TEACHERS AND DOCTORS AND LAWYERS AND TRUCK DRIVERS! WE'RE JUST AS NORMAL AND BORING AS ANYONE ELSE! AND WE DEMAND THE SAME RIGHTS AS EVERYONE ELSE!



GREAT! THIS IS JUST TYPICAL! FREAKS LIKE THAT GETTING ALL THE COVER-AGE! YOU KNOW, YOU'RE THE REASON MIDDLE AMERICA HATES US SO MUCH!



HAWH... LOOKS LIKE SOMEBODY'S FEELING LEFT OUT AND NEEDS A LITTLE ATTENTION! MAY I?



HOW DO YOU DOIN' BABY? THIS YOUR PARTNER HERET



THAT'S RIGHT! MY HUSBAND DON AND I HAVE BEEN TOGETHER FOR NINE YEARS! JUST A COUPLE OF WEEKS AGO WE WENT TO SAN FRANCISCO AND MADE IT OFFICIAL!



NINE YEARS? WOW! TELL ME THEN BABY, WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME THE TWO OF YOU HAD SEX?



GOOD LORD, WHO CAN EVEN REMEMBER THAT FAR BACK???



GAY MARRIED'S REALLY ARE JUST LIKE STRAIGHT MARRIED'S! SEE THAT AMERICA? LET US MARRY AND WE'LL STOP HAVING ALL THAT ICKY GAY SEX THAT MAKES WALL SO UNCOMFORTABLE!



HEY!!! EXCUSE ME, CAN I HAVE MY MICROPHONE BACK, PLEASE?



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# He Loves Me, He Loves Me Not?

But, like a major Japanese metropolitan area circa 1945, the bomb drops out of nowhere. "I never saw it coming," you manage to choke out between the gut-wrenching sobs. Well, you shouldn't have been so blinded by love. Maybe you should have had your eyes peeled and been on the lookout for that iceberg that brought the ship down.

We, however, know what it's liked to be kicked to the curb again and again. Or maybe I should say "knew," because after we devised these

handy hints for recognizing when a relationship is going down in flames, we have become the *dumppers* rather than the *dumpees*. So stop your crying, pay attention and maybe your next fling won't end with a sting.

## 2. Is it always a "group" thing?

We're not talking about the introduction of outside parties into your sex life, that's another sign altogether. Instead, have there been fewer and fewer dates with just you and your man? Are more and more of his friends always around? Whether it's off to the cineplex for the latest '70s-TV-show-brought-back-as-motion-picture, or dinner at the coolest new restaurant, if it no longer seems like date night but more like bachelor night for your

love muffin, the end may be sight.

## 3. You're no longer a title holder.

Say you've been dating your man for a while now and you're still in the process of meeting his friends. Your beau used to proudly beam when he introduced you as his "boyfriend." Now it's just, "Oh, this is (fill in your name here)." If you've lost the special title, he may already be starting the separation process.

## 4. Everything you do is "right."

A friend once told me that he had found the perfect guy. They used to argue at first but his S.O. had come around to his way of thinking and agreed with everything my friend suggested. No longer was there any type of confrontation on any issue, which might

sound great in some parallel universe. However, it wasn't that Bobby was always right, but rather that his "perfect guy" didn't want to invest his time in arguing with somebody who he knew wouldn't be around for much longer.

## 5. Frequent last-minute cancellations.

You've finally gotten reservations at that trendy bistro everyone's been raving about. It took some major work but you're in. But the big night comes and an hour before your reservation the phone rings. It's your man, telling you he's held up at work, or a slew of other feeble excuses you've heard way too many times before. This is probably the most spineless way of dumping a boyfriend. Your man is hoping you'll eventually get pissed enough and dump him.

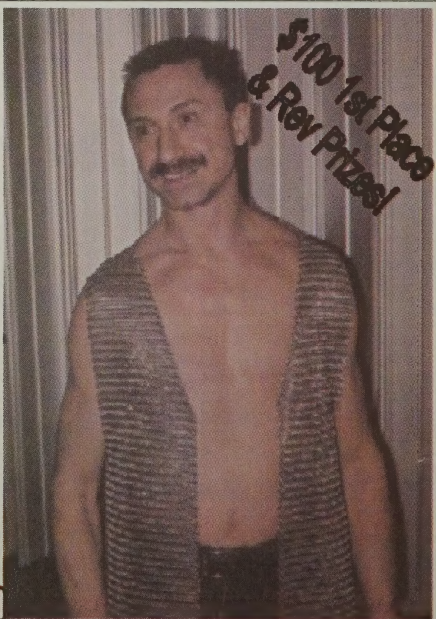
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# I'm Coming Out

By: Jeffrey L. Williams

It was one of the coldest days that winter. The windows were brisk with ice growing on the inside. The walls were freezing to what appeared to be well below normal and for some odd reason, the lights in my bedroom flickered on and off as if to give me a message of sorts. When the lights flickered, all I could think of was my fear of the dark when I was a young boy. I would sleep with a night light on and always underneath the cover to not expose any part of my body to "monsters" or "restless spirits". Though I attribute most of my fears to the program I used to watch before bed, *Unsolved Mysteries*, it still took me until the age of seventeen to break out of the habit of totally covering myself under the blankets before falling asleep. The cold was also a sign to me. One day when I was a young boy—my best guess is the age of eleven, I was asked to go outside and play with my friends. The winter had been a particularly bad one in Rochester, NY but I had dressed appropriately for it; so I thought. Since I was outside playing in my friends' yard, my Mom decided to go do a little food shopping at the Wegmans supermarket.

Within the first half hour of playing, I began to feel my toes freeze up and harden almost as if I was a piece of meat in a deep freeze. As the pain grew I began to panic. My mother was gone and she had mistakenly left the door locked.

My friend's tried to walk me back to their home but my feet hurt so badly that I couldn't move. I didn't want to move. I was afraid of them breaking or something. So I just sat there on the steps of the front porch waiting for her swift return. When mother finally arrived, she had in her hand three heavy bags of groceries that she dropped at the first glimpse of her nearly frozen son. When asked why she hadn't returned home, mother replied: "I didn't know you'd be stupid enough to leave your keys in the house. That was your choice and you made it" From that day forward, I guess I learned that my mother was pretty harsh, though loving as well. I knew that in my suffering, she may not be totally comforting and may assume that whatever mistakes are made in my life, all were as a result of a bad choice, even if the "mistake" wasn't a choice at all.

That cold winter day in January of two thousand one, I had been sick suddenly. My nose was stuffed and my head was aching like never before. The pain felt as if I had been run over by a NYC taxicab as they are speeding dangerously for their next fare. That is when it all happened. My stupid mistake had cost me unimaginable scrutiny and embarrassment. My mother stormed into my bedroom and demanded answers. She wanted answers to questions immediately but she hadn't asked any. "I want answers and I want them now! No fucking bullshit, Jeff. Answer me honestly or I will make you!" After several unsuccessful tries to calm her down, she finally explained to me calmly what she was referring to. "OK, let me calm down and ask you this rationally. Are you a fag?" My jaw dropped for two reasons, 1. If she thought that was rational, she was sadly mistaken. She was as rational as Ricky Ricardo drinking

Absinthe while tripping on acid. 2. My deepest darkest secret and number one fear had been realized. She found out I was gay. Only one question remained: how? Before I could ask that question, mother went into her pocket and pulled out a letter that was addressed to me from a former fling of mine. His name was Eddie Bellissimo. He was a training chef from Italy and a fabulous kisser. We had met in Central Park after a would-be date called and cancelled on me. After a few dates, Eddie went back to Italy and promised me that he would be in touch. I'll be damned if he didn't keep his promise. The letter never got to me. Mother dear opened it up when she saw that the letter was addressed to Dearest Jeff and from a male named Eddie from Italy. That was enough to arouse her suspicion and prompt her to open the letter. When she read the terribly romantic letter, it enraged her.

Mother began throwing things onto the floor of my room from the dresser and yelling to me that I cannot be gay because I was her son and that gays are often forms of Satan. Yes, she is one of those terribly religious hypocritical types that I tried all my life to avoid. Now here it stood tall loud and proud while condemning her gay son. After reading the letter with my mother looking over my shoulder crying, I began to cry too but not for the same reason. Mother was crying because of her gay son, I cried because of my dear Eddie and his beautiful letter. When her tears began to fall onto the paper and nearly rub away the ink, I folded the letter up and put it in my pocket. Then I stood up and looked my mother straight in the eye and said to her just as loud, and proud as she had spoken to me: "Mother, I am gay." Mother was always over dramatic as

she passed out onto my bed uttering over and over the eternal question with no answer: Why?

I didn't comfort her though. I knew that she was crying because she wanted me to be something that I am not. She was crying because I was something bad in her eyes and I couldn't, therefore, try and comfort her. I didn't want her to feel that in her bigoted tears for me, I would just try and come up with excuses as to why I am the way I am because I have none. I am what I am and I gave her the choice right then and there to either accept it or not. I told her to like it or love it but I am not going to apologize, make excuses or ask for forgiveness because I believe that I am the way I am for a reason. I may have to adapt to a straight world but no more will I have to pretend to be something that I am not. No more did I have to have my "girlfriends" or female friends, (as I now refer to them) call my house pretending to be girls that are interested in me. No more did I have to pretend to go on dates with girls and no more did I have to suffer the humiliation of having girls meet my mother and kiss me on the cheek to make things more convincing to her. Dear god how uncomfortable that was for my friend Sharon and I.

I was finally free and happy. I knew what I wanted to do with my life. I had a goal, plans and determination. I have the driven force within me to be anything I wanted and that is what hasn't changed about me. Those things are what are really important. Confidence, will power, determination and strength are some of the most important things that define a person. Not their predetermined internal mechanism called homosexuality. My mother is still learning that lesson. She is still coping with my sexuality but on her own terms. I respect that as long as she keeps her promise to me by letting me live my life on my own with absolutely no input from her. That, believe it or not, is difficult for any mother to do whether she is the parent of a gay child or not.



# The Fiscal Reality of HIV/AIDS in the Richest Province in Canada

## The Wrong End of the Stick

Robert Wm. Smith  
HIV Edmonton

I feel a rant coming on. It is difficult to hold it all back sometimes. While there is much in my life to be thankful for, all around me there is lots to get really pissed off about.

Sherry McKibben, HIV Edmonton's Executive Director stated this week that the proposed private members bill called the Blood Samples Act is an example of the government of Alberta using the "wrong end of the stick" in its attempt at protecting emergency services, police and corrections employees

from becoming infected with HIV, HEP B and C in the commission of their duties. It's the wrong end of the stick because what they need to be doing is funding education programs that would have a greater long-term effect at protecting these folk.

We are living in quite a time. This week, both the Governments of Canada and Alberta put out their election style budgets covered in enough veneer to repave the much acclaimed highway of

prosperity we are supposedly on.

It may be my tendency to side with the underdog, the down trodden and the helplessly underserved; and, it may be the bleeding heart socialist leaning context within which I observe governments, but in my view there is treachery afoot. The priorities of election

budgets are blatantly obvious and the lack of short and long-term benefit to the homeless and disenfranchised is also blatantly obvious.

There is a stench to the assertions, for example that the health care system is gobbling up our future, that it will out spend our ability to pay the bills and that our children will be left holding the bag. There is an equally smelly emission from education, social services, and basically every human services department whose role it is to prevent vast numbers of our citizenry from falling through the cracks. Wake up folks, if the system isn't adequately funded and our citizens cared for and if stopgap approaches to human misery prevail, the cracks will widen to consume us all.

HIV Edmonton serves a large clientele that has

*"The Alberta government has forsaken core services in order that it may claim a false glory..."*

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fallen through not one crack but several; and in that service, HIV Edmonton and others like it are falling through the cracks. Governments have downloaded responsibility for core services to community-based organizations. They then set up funding formulas, not based on the perceived need or recognized crisis, but based on floating the corporate sector with sufficient tax luxury to house every single homeless and starving Albertan. The Alberta government has forsaken core services in order that it may claim a false glory of paying down our piddling provincial debt. The fiscal report card might look great in the corporate sector, but who's paying the price. How can we claim a surplus in oil and gas revenues when there is so much unfunded need. Again, they are using the wrong end of the stick.

HIV Edmonton and other AIDS Service Organizations throughout Alberta have continually felt the pressure of rapidly depleting dollars in the health care and social service sectors. It is happening again with the

new budgets for the next three-year funding cycle of every member organization of the Alberta Community Council on HIV (ACCH) sharing less dollars across the board. We are finding it increasingly more difficult to do our work with less money. We are continually re-adjusting our staff to fit the drop in dollars. Three positions have been eliminated in the past 12 months; not because there is no work in those areas, there is always lots of work, but because there is no money to pay the people needed to do the work. So it just doesn't get done and women and youth and mental health and ethnocultural communities are underserved. We are being forced to use the wrong end of the stick.

Yes, we can compete for project dollars; however project dollars are just that. The focus is often narrow and the timelines short. You can have the best of intentions, skill sets and most effective programs funded under project dollars. What you don't get is sustainability. Most programs started in HIV/AIDS related work undergo the same tragic reality of having to shut down at the end of a one,

two or three year funding cycle; and any benefit that may have been realized from their existence is dramatically lost.

The Gay Men's Outreach Crew (GMOC) is a prime example. It has had an on again, off again existence since it's inception. The Gay and Lesbian Community Centre of Edmonton (GLCCE) though not HIV/AIDS focused, is another. The reality for GLCCE is much more acute. There is no money, there is no staff and there are few services available. The new interim board struggles to keep some entity alive in our community against some very big odds. I wish them luck, it won't be easy.

HIV/AIDS is not a pretty cause; it doesn't have the sex appeal that many causes do. The stigma surrounding HIV/AIDS directly impacts our ability to do our work. Last month I wrote about the impact of homophobia on the LGBT community and particularly on HIV/AIDS in our community. The stigma faced by those infected and affected by HIV/AIDS finds its roots in the social and fiscal discrimination

experienced by our homeless, highly addicted, populations as well.

Homeless isn't sexy either, nor is addictions, or mental illness, or any of the issues faced by most of our clientele. And when it's not sexy, there is little interest in funding or sponsorship. HIV/AIDS fundraisers do not enjoy the same success experienced by the great galas and silent auctions that bring in hundreds of thousands of dollars for Kids Cottage or Ronald MacDonald House or political parties. HIV/AIDS fundraisers do not attract the upper echelon of corporate Alberta or their political friends.

Government under funding of community-based social and health service organizations and turning a blind eye to the realities of poverty, addictions, mental illness, homelessness and extreme vulnerability is using the wrong end of the stick in service delivery. Illnesses like HIV/AIDS that thrive on these conditions will continue to decimate families and communities unless some attention is paid, now. The Alberta Government and the Canadian Government are not paying attention.

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# News From the Court



Without next Coronation Ball just around the corner, applications are now out for the positions of Emperor and Empress 29. As well, applications for our scholarships are also available. They can be picked up at Boots, The Roost or Prism. The deadline for both applications is April 11<sup>th</sup>.

Empress 8 & 17, Mary Mess, initiated the John M. Kerr Memorial Scholarship Fund in 1984. Each year we give out a minimum of two \$500-\$750 awards at the Ball. It is funded through the ongoing fundraising events put on by the College of Monarchs. Scholarships are open to gay and lesbian students enrolled

in any accredited post secondary education program within the Province of Alberta.

In early March, the Court put on a production of Chicago. It was very well attended all 3 nights it ran. A big applause to Empress Oprah and the entire cast for a lot of hard work and a great job. Also, a big thanks to the Roost for providing a great venue for our function.



Our annual Entertainer of the Year pageant was held on March 27<sup>th</sup>. Pepper, who was E.O.T.Y. 2003, stepped down making way for who you thought was Edmonton's best for this year, still unknown at press time.

On April 17<sup>th</sup>, many of us will be heading to Calgary for their 28<sup>th</sup> annual Coronation

Ball, and the step down of Emperor & Empress 27, Marty and Brandy Bishop Towers. If

you are looking to get away for a weekend, this would be a great place to be. Please watch for our upcoming events on our website at <http://geocities.com/wildrosecourt>. It is the people who support our events that keep us alive and make it possible to help the various charities in our community. Keep in mind; our own Ball is only 2 months away on June 5<sup>th</sup>.

Emperor 27  
Bobby



## A Princess' View

By Sticky Vicky

I am honored to be the newly elevated I.C.P. Princess XXVIII. I have been involved with the I.S.C.W.R for the past twenty years. I encourage everyone who loves performing or helping with charity events to come to the meetings held on the last Wednesday of each month at the Garage Burger Bar. The I.S.C.W.R chooses a different charity every year to help better our community.

AS many people know, I host a fundraiser the third Thursday of every month at the Roost. I have been doing this for the past 3 years and will continue for many more years. I get the satisfaction of knowing I can make a difference in someone's life. When I did a fundraiser for Breast Cancer Research, it brought one woman to the realization that she had a lump on her breast. I am happy to say, she caught it in time and had it removed. AIDS fundraisers

are another big charity that I support. Every November, the Roost holds an annual AIDS benefit, which I work very hard to raise funds for.

If you are interested in being a part of the I.S.C.W.R, please come to Boots Garage Burger Bar the last Wednesday of every month. This is a very strong non-profit organization. Come listen, have some input, or even join! Memberships are \$5.00 per year.

The I.S.C.W.R will be having its annual ball on June 5<sup>th</sup>. Many have asked if I would consider running for empress XXVIII. I feel honored to be considered to run for this position, and do know the community would support me in my court endeavours.

In closing, I would like to say to you all, no matter what I decide to do, I will always remain "STICKY VICKY - The One Who Cares".

If you would like any information on the charity shows that I host, or any general questions, please feel free to E-Mail me at: [stkychar@telus.net](mailto:stkychar@telus.net)



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# Election 2004

The signs of an upcoming Federal Election are everywhere, with nomination meetings in full gear to select candidates for various parties, the conclusion of the leadership races, the occasional sign showing up on billboards, and the political pundits on the airwaves in full force!!

Since moving to Alberta a few years ago, I have become quite aware of what the term "Nail-Biter" means in politics. That seems to be the nature of the beast in Edmonton West, which will now become Edmonton Centre after the change in electoral boundaries. I was pleased that when the final

vote was counted after the last election, my member of parliament was not a member of the Canadian Alliance!! A significant portion of the G.L.B.T. Community, resides in the riding, and our voice and vote made a difference. I believe this trend will continue in the upcoming election.

Since the last election, we have seen the House of Commons adopt bill C-250, which relates to hate propaganda and sexual orientation. I was proud of the decision by the Federal Cabinet not to appeal the Court rulings concerning same sex marriages in three provinces. Draft legislation has been referred to the Supreme Court, and will be the subject of intense debate in the future parliament that

we will elect. My friend, the late Bob Mills always advocated for reducing the costs of drugs in developing countries to help fight the HIV/AIDS epidemic. The government has proposed legislation, which would enable the supply of these inexpensive drugs to developing countries.

As a Canadian, I was proud of the government's decision to stay out of the War in Iraq. The history of the past year reflects positively on that decision. Many positive changes in Health Care Reform have been made.

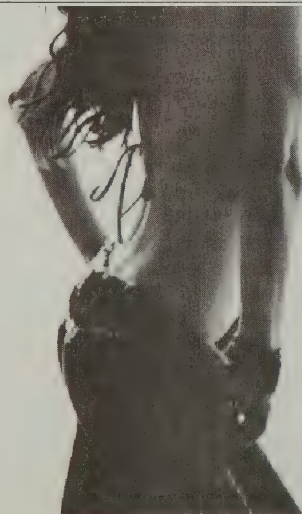
As a resident of Edmonton, I am pleased that the Martin government recognizes the priority of better funding of our cities and municipalities. This started with a 100% rebate of the G.S.T. for

municipalities effective February 1<sup>st</sup>. This is an important first step.

I am proud that Anne McLellan has been my member of parliament, and has made the decision to support her re-election. I shudder to think how I would have been represented if a friend of Stockwell Day or Stephen Harper was my M.P.

It will be an important election, and I hope you will let your voice be heard. Whether it is asking questions of candidates, or getting involved in the political process, we can make a difference. Together we will!

Jim Kane



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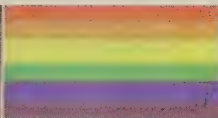
## Legend

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| <b>A</b> Times 10            | <b>G</b> The Roost Nite Club | <b>M</b> Marlow's Flowers     | <b>S</b> Yannis Taverna     |
| <b>B</b> Conrads Cafe        | <b>H</b> Boots The Blue Room | <b>N</b> Algonquin Travel     | <b>T</b> Smile Zone Dental  |
| <b>C</b> Pride Video         | <b>I</b> The Garage          | <b>Q</b> Gay & Lesbian Centre | <b>U</b> Buddy's Night Club |
| <b>D</b> Down Under          | <b>J</b> Steamers            | <b>R</b> HIV Edmonton         | <b>W</b> The Boxy Theatre   |
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# Coming out in England

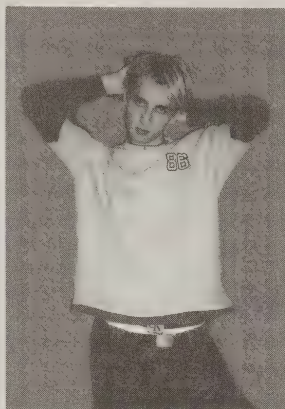
By Spencer Casey

Hello, my name is Spencer Casey, and I am an 18yr old student from Bristol England. I'm currently studying musical theatre at a drama college, I also bartend at a gay club in Bristol called the 'Queen Shilling'.

I have been out now for about a year and a half, and I love it! I think I found it easier to come out to my parents than most guys my age, mainly because my 26-year-old brother is also gay, so I knew how my mother would react. She was fab, and she told me she loved me and always will. It has also brought my brother and me closer now as we have that special something in common.

It's not as if my mums never going to have grandchildren though, I have 3 brothers and a baby sister, and I'm soon to be an uncle so that's all groovy!

I'm single at the moment and haven't exactly had the best experiences with guys in the past. That's one thing that really upsets me about the scene, is the fact that some people see the name 'Gay'



as meaning "slag". Well, I'm far from one.

I don't sleep around; I've never wanted to. I guess I'm the kind of guy that just loves to cuddle up to that special someone and feel all

warm and safe. That's the best feeling in the world.

I know they say society is better than it used to be; it's just so hard when you're not able to express your true self in public. I mean I know some people do but simple things like holding your boyfriend's hand or kissing him to say thank-you for something.

The way I learned to deal with it is by making it into a secret, so it's only something between him and me and no one else is allowed to know. So we have the danger of being caught but we sneakily find places where there's no one and give him a kiss or secretly hold his hand in a shop when looking at something. Just little things, but it does help.

If I had to sum myself up in one word, I guess it would be 'Random' (he he); I do the strangest things at times, nothing weird, just...well random.

I'd say I'm a very genuine guy and accepts everyone for who they are and I love the company of others.

I absolutely love singing, I've composed about 5 songs, 4 of which I'm converting into a musical and the other one is more chart kind of music. The musical is just my own little project that I like to work on in my spare time.

Friendship is 'very' important to me; I cherish all my friends so much, and I don't know were I would be with out them.

I've always wanted to move to America, and in time I hope I will, well that's my aim anyway. I've got to gain some success first and get some money in the bank. Being a poor student doesn't help, but that's probably because I'm really into my fashion and I'm (as any gay 18yr old) addicted to shopping.

I'm not entirely sure which route I'd like to take though, my voice is more chart music style, and I love performing. I guess I could always do both.

Well that's a little bit about me, thanks for reading!

Spencer

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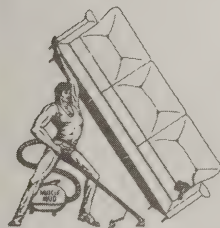
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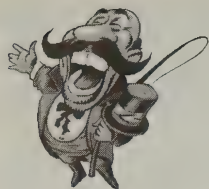
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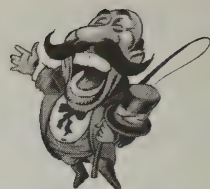
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# Jokes & Laffs!

Brought to you By Steven Townsend  
And the Letter "D"



## Die Hard Fan

Recently, I was at a professional football game supporting my favourite team. My seat wasn't the greatest, so when I noticed a vacant seat on the fifty-yard line 10 rows up, I headed towards it. I asked the man sitting next to it if the seat was taken. He replied, "No". I started talking to the man and I learned he owned the seat I was in. He said, "My wife use to love to come to these games until she died." "Why didn't you give this seat away to a friend?" I asked. He replied, "Because they are all at her funeral."

## Good News Bad News

A bunch of Saddam Hussein's body doubles were waiting in a lounge when they heard on the news that Saddam's palace had been bombed. One of Saddam's advisors called them and said he had good news and bad news. The doubles said they wanted the good news first, so the advisor said that Saddam had survived the blast. The doubles were greatly relieved. "Then what's the bad news?" they asked. "Saddam lost one of his arms," the advisor replied

## The Bear And The Atheist

An atheist was taking a walk through the woods, admiring all that evolution had created.

"What majestic trees! What powerful rivers! What beautiful animals!" he said to himself. As he was walking along the river, he heard a rustling in the bushes behind him. When he turned to see what the cause was, he saw a 7-foot grizzly charging right towards him. He ran as fast as he could. He looked over his shoulder and saw that the bear was closing. He ran even faster, crying in fear. He looked over his shoulder again, and the bear was even closer. His heart was pounding and he tried to run even faster. He tripped and fell on the ground. He rolled over to pick himself up, but saw the bear right on top of him, reaching for him with his left paw and raising his right paw to strike him. At that moment, the Atheist cried out "Oh my God!" Time stopped. The bear froze. The forest was silent. Even the river stopped moving. As a bright light shone upon the man, a voice came out of the sky, "You deny my existence for all of these years; teach others I don't exist; and even credit creation to a cosmic accident. Do you expect me to help you out of this predicament? Am I to count you as a believer?" The atheist looked directly into the light "It would be hypocritical of me to suddenly ask you to treat me as Christian now, but perhaps could you make the bear a Christian?" "Very well," said the voice. The light went out. The river ran again. And the sounds of the forest resumed.

## Keep it in the Closet

A guy comes home early one day from work. And he hears weird sounds coming from his bedroom. When he gets to his room, he finds his wife naked on the bed sweating bullets. "What the hell is going on?" he says. "I'm having a heart attack!!" So he runs down stairs, and picks up the phone to dial 911. But as he is doing this, his four-year-old son, comes running up to him and says, "Dad, Uncle Tommy is up stairs, hiding in your closet, and he's naked" So he slams the phone down, and runs upstairs, to find his own brother, in the closet. The man then says. "What the hell are you doing? My wife is having a heart attack, and your here running around naked, scaring the kids? You should be ashamed of yourself!"

## Pig At The Bar

A lady goes into a bar with her goose. Then the bartender comes up to her and says, "why did you have to bring the pig in with you?" Then the lady answered, "Excuse me, I think this is a goose." And the bartender says, "Excuse me, I was talking to the goose."

## Post Turtle?

While suturing a laceration on the hand of a 90-year-old man, the doctor asked his patient how he thought George W. Bush was doing



as President. The old man said, "Ya know, Bush is a post turtle." Not knowing what the old man meant, the doctor asked him what a "post turtle" was. He said, "Did you ever drive down a country road and come across a fence post with a turtle balanced on top? You know he didn't get there by himself, he doesn't belong there, he can't get anything done while he's up there, and you just want to help the poor thing down. That's a post turtle."

### It Works

I sent flowers to someone who was moving to Florida for a job promotion. I also sent flowers the same day to a

funeral for a friend. I found out later that the flower shop got the cards mixed up. They sent the card to the guy who was moving that said, "Deepest Condolences," and sent the card to the funeral home that said, "I know it's hot where you're going, but you deserve it."

### The Greatest Gas Of All

A man woke up every morning and passed gas. After about eight or nine years of marriage, his Partner finally said, if you fart any more, you'll fart your guts out. Being a butcher the man's boyfriend decided to put pig scraps in his pants so he would wake up, and not do it anymore. He put the

scraps in his pants that night. He woke up in the morning and went across the hall to the bathroom. Two long hours later, he came out and stated, honey, you were right about me farting my guts out. But with the grace of God and these two fingers I got them back in there.

### Poor Nancy

Little Nancy was in the garden filling in a hole when her neighbour peered over the fence. Interested in what the little girl was up to, he politely asked, "What are you up to there, Nancy?" "My goldfish died," replied Nancy tearfully, without looking up, "and I've just buried him." The

neighbour was concerned, "That's an awfully big hole for a goldfish, isn't it?" Nancy patted down the last heap of earth and then replied, "That's because he's inside your stupid cat."

### Sean and \_\_\_?

Sean and Matt were out golfing when suddenly the Matt asked, "Honey, if I died would you get married again?" Sean said, "No dear." Matt then replied, "I'm sure you would." So Sean said, "Okay, I would" Then Matt asked, "Would you let him sleep in our bed?" And Sean replied, "Yeah, I guess so." Then Matt asked, "Would you let him use my golf clubs?" Sean replied, "No, he's left handed."

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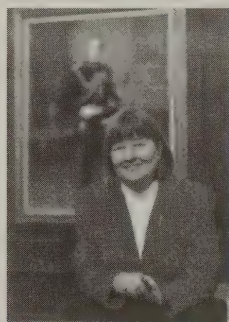
# What are they Hiding?

By Laurie Blakeman - MLA

As I write this, we are in the middle of the Spring Session in the Alberta Assembly. The Government's agenda for 2004 has thus far been shallow, thin, lackluster and without vision. Proposed government legislation has been long awaited modernization of legislation like the Public Trustees, yet more installments in the seemingly never-ending adjustments to the Child Welfare Act (can't they get this right just once?), or ideologically driven bills like Senatorial Selection. Many of the bills I've seen are only a few lines long. The Government fiddles while Alberta smoulders.

The Liberal Opposition has asked for emergency debates on the issues **really** affecting Albertans this Spring. Issues like electrical deregulation, auto insurance (freeze, what freeze?), the crisis in Calgary and Edmonton emergency rooms, restoring programs to seniors and questioning Cabinet Ministers accountable for their lavish travel expenses. The government has refused to debate any of these issues. What are they hiding?

Like the magician distracting us with verbal patter while his hands do the trick, the Premier and his Ministers try to distract us with trips to



Washington, musings on opting out of the Canada Health Act, and the always useful personal attack on the questioner or blame the victim tactics. Sad, really.

Keep your eye on the real issues folks. The Elections Statutes Amendment Act will update sections, make it clear that access to security buildings must be granted to enumerators and candidates, and also includes a new section on unique identifier numbers. This is one to watch. I think we have to be very careful whenever this government talks about identifier numbers that link to personal information. They haven't proven very good at keeping our personal information safe. But on the other hand, an identifier number could allow us to start thinking

about electronic voting, on-line citizen referenda and other links between citizen participation, computers/internet and democracy.

The Liberal Opposition has been pressing the government to come clean and fess up about travel expenses. After asking questions in Question Period, Public Accounts, and sending a written list of questions sent to the Premier, we are now asked to submit the questions as Written Questions or Motions for Return. As requested, we've now submitted almost 200 of these and wait for the government to answer, and to answer on the record,

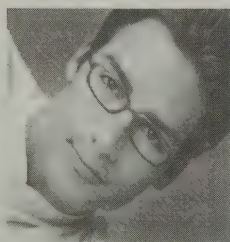
The Premier likes folks to think he still drinks beer at the St. Louis but in reality he travels and works in the style of a CEO. We think he should be able to be accountable to the people when he is spending their money. Stay tuned.

Thanks to everyone who signed up to vote in the leadership race. If you want to write to me, email [blakeman@laurieblakeman.com](mailto:blakeman@laurieblakeman.com) Write me at: #3, 9908-109 Street Edmonton, AB T5K 1H5, or call 780-414-0743

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# New Rapid HIV Test is Leap Forward for Prevention

WASHINGTON - A newly approved rapid HIV test is a leap forward for prevention efforts, the Human Rights Campaign said today. The Food and

Drug Administration announced today that the first oral rapid HIV test, which can deliver results in 20 minutes, has been approved for use.

***"Everyone should know their status to protect their own health and the health of their loved ones."***

"This is a vital new tool for preventing new HIV infections and getting life-prolonging treatment to those already infected," said Cheryl Jacques, HRC president. "Everyone should know their status to protect their own health and the health of their loved ones."

Some 40,000 people are infected each year with HIV and approximately 300,000

men, women and children are unknowingly infected, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

"HIV testing should be rapid, accurate and confidential," continued Jacques. "By offering a pain-free testing mechanism

and reducing wait time for results, this new test could increase testing rates."

"In addition to testing advances, it is critical that Congress and the administration fund strategic prevention programs at the CDC," added Jacques. "Infection rates of gay and bisexual men are rising and we need well-funded science-

based approaches to halt this alarming trend."

The Human Rights Campaign is the largest national gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender political organization with members throughout the

country. It effectively lobbies Congress, provides campaign support and educates the public to ensure that GLBT Americans can be open, honest and safe at home, at work and in the community.



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# Resurrecting the Body in the Church

Yesterday, I was able to see all the brown and dusty grass on my front lawn for the first time this year. That inevitably means that Easter must be near. As our beautiful city begins to turn from that dull brown into Spring's new green, my heart begins to stir and look forward to a new season. By Easter it has usually begun. Oh yes, there will be the odd snowflake yet but we can begin to see Spring in the morning sun and the longer evenings. It is usually the harmony between the earth's new growth and the Easter story's promise of rebirth that focuses the church's attention at this time of year on the resurrection of Christ, the last part of the Easter story.

In that lovely synchronicity of season and story, we sometimes forget that the first part of the Easter story is filled with betrayal, disappointment, despair, and death. This year, however, with the TV spewing non-stop images of battle and destruction, the new green garments of the earth seem a bit paler to me than in other years,

and my thoughts go more readily to the suffering of Jesus and then the unnecessary suffering of so many innocent people through the ages and up to this very minute.

It seems odd to me that so many people memorialize and glorify the death of one man two thousand years ago in our church liturgies and confessions, while at the same time willingly dismissing and trivializing the deaths of hundreds today as simply the necessary "collateral damage" of war—regrettable but unavoidable. I wonder what it is in so much contemporary Christianity that permits such a callous disregard for human life that dead fathers, mothers, brothers, sisters, children can simply be lumped together as the sad, but necessary, toll of war.

But the Apostle Paul, at least, would never have agreed to such heresy: the body, the real flesh and blood body, was for Paul at the centre of this present life and the next, the life of the resurrection.

1 Corinthians chapter 15 is Paul's most elegant defence of resurrection and his most thorough explanation of its "mystery." Now, some of you may be just a bit surprised that I would choose to talk about Paul in an article that is generally dedicated to celebrating commitment to the reconciliation of all of God's children, gay, lesbian, bisexual, trans-identified or straight. Paul is, after all, the one responsible for the negativity of what very little there is in the New Testament about same-sex love; the author, indeed, of the only verse in the entire Bible to deal with female homoeroticism (if that is, indeed, what it deals with). If any of those early Christians were in any way to blame for the disgraceful manner in which GLBT people are treated today in many churches throughout the world, the vote would certainly fall on Paul, and, really, on Paul alone.

Yet, it is precisely because of Paul's often well-deserved reputation for moral rigidity and sexual up-tightness that the

fullness of what he has to say about resurrection is so remarkable and important to hear. Because, you see, much to the dismay of at least some people within the Corinthian Christian community, Paul insisted that the resurrection of the dead, that ultimate hope of life in Christ of which Christ himself was the first fruit, was not to be an immaterial, vaporous rising of essences at the final trumpet but instead the arousing of bodies.

The very language Paul uses to describe the event, docilely translated in most English versions as "resurrection of the dead," in the Greek is literally much more graphic and shocking, "arousing the corpses." "How are corpses [nekroi] to be aroused?" Paul asks in 1 Cor 15:35, emphasizing the physicality and materiality of what he has in mind. His answer in the end, of course, is that it is a mystery (1 Cor 15:51), but the proof of this mystery is that Christ himself was so raised in bodily form.

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It was, I believe, inconceivable to Paul that resurrection, that most important promise of Christian faith, should be anything but fully embodied. That same body, descended from the dusty earth will put on the incorruptibility of its heavenly progenitor, the Christ, in the resurrection. The old mortal body of dust and flesh and blood for Paul will be aroused or changed in the twinkling of an eye at the final trumpet into a new body of immortality and glory, bearing now, not only the stamp of the man of dust but also the image of the man of heaven. Granted, for Paul that transformation would lighten the body from the grasps of earth and flesh, but it would never obliterate its materiality, its substance, its unique body-ness. For Paul, it is the material body, this very body, in some form that will be aroused at the resurrection. Why is this aspect of Paul's belief in resurrection so important? You see, even up-tight Paul understood that the body is at the centre of Christian belief. This real, material body, indeed, is the very site of God's coming. Isn't that actually what we mean by incarnation - God coming in the flesh of a real body to dwell on this dusty earth? Think about it: it is the body, not a building or a book or an image or a cloud or a pillar, but this fleshly, blood-filled, throbbing body, Christians claim, that is the location of God's presence with humanity, the site of God's dwelling in Jesus. "And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth" (John 1:14).

No wonder Paul asserts elsewhere in 1 Corinthians that the body is a temple; it literally is, for it is the dwelling place of God; God is glorified or not in our bodies (1 Cor 6: 19-20). The body, with all its messy imperfections, odd noises, embarrassing needs—and wondrous senses and passionate emotions—this body is where God chose to come in the flesh. And for Paul, it is this blessed old body made new that will be aroused at the final trumpet.

And yet for all that, many modern day Christians, like some among our predecessors in the Corinthian Christian community

of Paul's time, prefer to disdain, ignore, or trivialize our bodies, convinced I fear that the more we reject our bodies and their inconvenient needs and wants, the more truly spiritual and Christ-like we will become. For Paul, nothing could be farther from the truth. To reject the body is to reject the Holy Spirit that permeates its core. But Paul's witness on this point is nearly drowned out by the noises of a culture like ours, which is deeply hostile to bodies, repelled by their needs, their physicality and their vulnerability.

We, for example, praise the thinnest body, the most body-less body, as the cultural ideal of beauty; many of us refuse to tell our children anything about the sexual nature of their bodies out of fear or out of ignorance or more often, I'm afraid, just out of embarrassment; we cannot imagine, if we even allow ourselves to think of it, how our parents possibly conceived us; we cannot bear to think of growing older where the vulnerability and frailty of this dusty breath of life that is our body becomes impossible to ignore; and in church, perhaps especially in church, most never talk about bodies even in whispers, for, like our Puritan forebears, it seems somehow irreligious to speak of the material world of bodies, laughter, and bright colours in a supposedly holy setting. We cooperate in our culture's view of the body as an expendable commodity—with desperately sad results. I think Paul, as morally conservative as he surely was, would be shocked and dismayed at our aversion to the body.

"Sex," that's what it comes down to; all the richness of our relationships judged and rejected on the basis of "sex, the physical thing," as though it isn't all physical, all embodied. To be a

lesbian or a gay man, a bisexual or trans-identified person is to be faced over and over again with the reality of the body, its sexuality, physicality, and materiality, because it's that body and what we do with it in one delightful expression of the fullness of our relationships that makes us the target of disdain, revulsion, and even violence—sometimes in the

very name of the God who became flesh.

All of us, straight and gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans-identified need to come out of the closet about the body, to cast off our shame, fear,

and denial of its earthy substance and passionate needs, and if we do that, we are likely to understand much more fully why Paul so vehemently held the resurrection of the body to be the ultimate (end) telos, the final goal of Christian life. That final glorious transformation of the bodies of the faithful into the likeness of the body of Christ is, for Paul, the heart of the good news.

Like Paul, I believe that the resurrection of the body is the final goal of Christian life, but unlike Paul, I also believe that resurrection equally describes the process of the Christian process and the primary hope for the Christian community in the present. To live as a Christian is to be constantly in the process of regeneration, immersed in the fluidity of the old body becoming new again and again. New life in freedom, joy, love, glory and power occurs not only at the moment of the final trumpet's blast, as Paul contended, but also, I believe, in our daily walking, as fully embodied beings, courageously and humbly with our God. Rejecting again and again the tombs of shame and fear that our society and the church have built around our bodies and embracing, despite the danger, fully embodied lives of respect and dignity, justice and mercy. These may be the constant challenges facing us, but they are equally, I contend, the pressings and constant challenges of daily

Christian living in light of resurrection.

And the challenge is enormous, as the gospel stories of Jesus' resurrection remind us. Those tombs often have massive rocks blocking their doors, solid rocks of hatred, prejudice, ignorance, and fear, rocks that sometimes it seems only divine intervention could hope to shift. Then, when we finally manage to burst out into new life and begin to tell our friends the incredibly good news of transformation, many will refuse to believe us and others, blinded so thoroughly by their own fright, will see us now only as strangers.

Lesbian, gay, bisexual, and trans-identified Christians know these experiences so very well. Such experiences sometimes seem to be the curse of our lives; yet, I believe they are really more often our greatest blessing. You see, we are often forced to recognize that the cost of resurrection is always the death of the life that we have known in the past, but we also realize that that cost, while never without sorrow, is generously rewarded by the joy, freedom, and love that living as regenerated and transformed bodies in faith and hope brings with it. In the present day the lives of faithful lesbians, gay men, bisexual, and transgendered people stand as a cloud of witnesses to the power of the body and to the power of resurrection.

Now, Paul hoped the Corinthian church would come to understand the "mystery" of resurrection by learning from his faith and journey; perhaps today the modern church can re-discover the costs and joys of resurrection best by learning the lessons of discipleship found so fully embodied in the faith journeys of gay men, lesbians, bisexuals, and trans-identified people.

Resurrecting the body in the church and in the daily life of Christianity is neither easy nor simple, but—mark my words—it is the really good news Christianity has to offer to a world of disposable, trivialized bodies. It is the song of hope at the heart of renewed community, steadfast love, faithful discipleship, and reunion in glory. It is our present and our future.

***"All of us, straight and gay, lesbian, bisexual and trans-identified need to come out of the closet.."***



# A View from the Top

## Elders among us

In a recent discussion with some peers, the analogy of the leather community as a tribal unit came up. It happens to fit how I think about our community; however, there are some difficulties that we face today that never occurred in any tribe I have read about.

Let's define what a tribe is first.

The tribe is a definition for a group that sets themselves apart from other groups. Most of us became involved in the leather scene to differentiate us from other groups (twinks, drag queens etc) (So far so good).

The tribe typically conveys its membership to other members through fetishes or other symbols that identify its members. Knowing the symbology of the typical leather dress codes (hankies etc) this is true. (Again, so far so good)

The tribe limits its membership by use of ritual or initiation rites. I am somewhat undecided about this one but that may be a

topic for another day. (Still on track)

The tribe passes its accumulated knowledge through its Elders to its initiates usually through verbal methods and rituals.

## TILT!

This is where our current leather community seems to have great difficulty.

Our Elders have seemingly disappeared for the most part and the ones that are still visible are so overloaded that their general demeanor is exhaustion. Yes...exhaustion... from trying to fill the gap in as many people's lives as

possible because they, like me, believe that our knowledge will be lost unless we do something to pass it on by using verbal, ritual and mentoring as our methods of teaching.

One must ask the question why?

One reason is the AIDS epidemic. This had the effect of wiping out a generation of Elders from our community leaving a hole that has yet to be filled. A generation of leather has had to journey without benefit of guidance and mentoring simply because their Elders were no longer with us.

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Another reason is disaffection because of the politics and the general bullshit that we all have to deal with as public people. This probably chases off what little talent we have left.

So what does this leave us with?

From my perspective it leaves us with the dedicated masochist that firmly believes in the value of what we are and tries to live up to the expectations that were instilled in him by his Elders. But the brutal fact is that we need more Elders to assume their role in our tribe, thereby ensuring that our traditions and rituals are not lost or altered beyond recognition and loosing our own identity as a tribe in the process.

When I raised this point one person, who I happen to respect as one of my Elders, wrote back (and please forgive the paraphrasing), "Who the hell would want to be an Elder in this tribe anyway? In some rare cases Elders are treated with respect but in most others they are left on an ice floe to die."

Is this what we are doing to our Elders?

Leaving them out on a frigid piece of ice to die without benefit of the rest of our

tribe and the support that they deserve?

If so, then shame on us. This is our history and our future that we are ignoring and at our own peril.

How do we address the problem?

If I might put forward a suggestion here: let's start by treating our Elders with the respect that their wisdom

indicates they deserve. Respect is the key here and it should be a keystone for our

tribe. Sadly it seems to be lacking.

Here is my vow: I will treat everyone with the respect that I would expect to be given to myself. In this way I can begin to reclaim the rich history that is our tribe's heritage and in that way encourage our Elders to come out of hiding. I hope to lead by example and encourage others to do the same.

Elders, please come out of hiding. We need you now more than ever.

Until next time  
I remain  
Yours in Leather  
Scott Bryen  
MR. Edmonton Leather  
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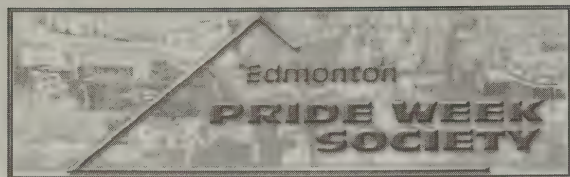
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The Pride Committee regrets the slow trickle of information over the past few months. However, we want to assure the community that we have been working steadily behind the scenes trying to make plans and develop a roadmap for a successful week of festivities. There have been numerous obstacles as we have struggled to secure adequate venues. Now with most of the needed sites and contracts in place, we are excited to present the early details of **PRIDE WEEK 2004**.

As always, EPWS is committed to giving back to Edmonton's GLBT community groups and service providers. This year is no exception. A significant portion of the profits will be returned to the community organizations that provide services and resources all year. But to make Pride Week successful, we need you. Your events, your commitment, your time and talent. Pride Week needs close to 400 volunteer hours.

If you are interested in becoming involved, please contact us at [info@prideedmonton.org](mailto:info@prideedmonton.org) or call 405-4134 with your contact information. **PIONEERING PRIDE 2004** is shaping up to be Edmonton's most successful Pride to date. Don't miss the chance to be a part of it!

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## Utah Deserves More

"The people of Utah deserve equality, not discrimination," said HRC President Cheryl Jacques. Utah Gov. Olene Walker Tuesday signed a divisive and discriminatory measure into law that restates a 1996 Utah law that denies marriage rights and responsibilities to same-sex couples. The new law also bans civil unions, domestic partnerships or related legal protection for same-sex couples.

"The people of Utah deserve equality, not discrimination," said HRC President Cheryl Jacques. "It's stunning that the Governor signed into law a bill that discriminates against her own citizens." "It's a shame that the fearful, closed-

minded politics of a few so strongly influence a thoughtful person like Governor Walker to sign such a divisive act into law," said Michael Mitchell, executive director of Equality Utah.

The law (SB24) was signed shortly after another divisive measure passed the Legislature - an anti-family amendment to the Utah Constitution that would ban marriage and any relationship recognition for same-sex couples. That measure will appear on the ballot in November.

The Human Rights Campaign is the largest national lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender political organization with members throughout the country. It effectively lobbies Congress, provides campaign support and educates the public to ensure that gay and lesbian Americans can be open, honest and safe at home, at work and in the community.

## California Democrat States

National Stonewall Democrats today praised House Democratic Leader Nancy Pelosi (CA) for publicly supporting marriage equality for same-sex families. In an interview yesterday with Fox News, the U.S. House of Representative's top Democrat stated that she believes same-sex couples should have the right to marry. Pelosi said in the interview that she was focused on defeating the proposed anti-marriage amendment and that she would not allow Republicans to distract her efforts by forcing false arguments on civil marriage.

"The most powerful Democrat in the U.S. House of Representatives has just come out for full marriage equality," said Dave Noble, NSD Executive Director. "In contrast, the most powerful Republican, Tom DeLay, is attempting to use to use the issue of marriage to tear

Americans apart. The difference in leadership, and between our two parties, is strikingly clear."

The anti-marriage amendment was re-introduced this week in the United States Senate with new language as Senate Joint Resolution 30. There, it currently has 10 Republican sponsors and one Democratic Sponsor. While the amendment, with its new language, has not yet been re-introduced in the U.S. House, it was previously sponsored by 111 House Republicans and only seven Democrats.

In order to add an amendment to the U.S. Constitution, a resolution must first be passed by two-thirds of each chamber of Congress. It must then be ratified by three-fourths of state legislatures, who have up to seven years to approve any such amendment.

Nancy Pelosi was elected Democratic Leader in the U.S. House of Representatives in 2003. She represents California's 8th Congressional District. During her tenure in Congress, Leader Pelosi has worked as a relentless advocate of equal rights.

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**ARGRA's Monthly Dance • April 17 @ 7:30 pm**

Victoria Park Community Ass'n, 1302 6<sup>th</sup> St. SE Calgary

Dance the night away with good friends and good times! Country music till 10 pm and a hot mix or music the rest of the evening! For more info on ARGRA and events and dance dates visit [www.argra.org](http://www.argra.org)





# EVENT CENTRAL

**nextfest** June 3-13

**FEATURING "THE PARTY"**

**Coronation 2004** June 3-6

**FEATURING "THE INTOWN SHOW"**



**June 18-27**

**EDMONTON GAY PRIDE, 10 GREAT GAY DAYS!  
FEATURING A DIFFERENT EVENT EVERY NIGHT!**



**June 25-July 4**

**25TH YEAR! FEATURING "ANNE BEAUMONT & RHONDA WITHNELL"**



**July 1**

**FEATURING OUR FAMOUS CANADA DAY BEER BASH!**

**THE ROOST, YOUR ONE STOP  
ENTERTAINMENT CENTRE**

**Private Members Club / 10345-104 St. / 426-3150**

